



Studies in the News for



Children and Families Commission

Contents This Week

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

[The State of the State's Children](#)

[State early childhood professional development systems](#)

[Top 10 Policy Achievements of 2008](#)

[Illinois improves early childhood workforce](#)

[Promoting school readiness](#)

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

[“Parenting the First Year” newsletters](#)

[Number of low-income children increasing](#)

[How finances affect parenting in foster families](#)

IMPROVED HEALTH

[Media exposure and children’s health](#)

[Parents’ opinions of the LA Healthy Kids program](#)

[Preventing obesity in children - podcast](#)

[Reducing risk of SIDS in child care kit](#)

[Effectiveness of SIDS risk reduction training](#)

[Mental health services for children](#)

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

[Child care costs assistance](#)

[The economic crisis and child care centers](#)

STUDIES TO COME

[Changing the odds for at-risk children](#)

[Early childhood programs and health/safety standards](#)

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[California Kindergarten Conference](#)

[SEECAP's 15th Annual Symposium](#)

[Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities grants](#)

[Grants for state business summits on early childhood](#)

Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News: Children and Family Supplement is a service provided to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission by the California State Library. The service features weekly lists of current articles focusing on Children and Family policy. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at:

<http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/ccfc/>.

How to Obtain Materials Listed in SITN:

- When available on the Internet, the URL for the full-text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact Information Resources & Government Publications at (916-654-0081; csinfo@library.ca.gov).
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

2008 California Report Card: The State of the State's Children. By Children Now. (Children Now, Oakland, California) 2008. 52 p.

[“The ‘2008 California Report Card: The State of the State's Children’ highlights the generally poor health and education status of the state's children by assigning letter grades to key individual determinants, such as a C in health insurance, a C- in K-12 education and a D+ in obesity. According to the report and its supporting documentation, these issues are undermining children's optimal development and putting the state's future at undue risk by dramatically increasing the financial costs and societal problems faced by future generations. The report also shows, however, that real progress on these issues can and should be made in 2008. The most current and comprehensive set of indicators of California children's health and education status are presented in the report, including:

- Only 47% of 3- and 4-year-olds attend preschool;
- One in three children is overweight or obese;
- Just 65% graduate from high school on time;
- 37% of children, ages 2-5, did

not visit a dentist within the last year; - Fewer than half of families can afford the basics of housing, child care, food, health insurance and transportation.”]

Full text at: <http://publications.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/policy/rc08/ca-rc-2008.pdf>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Workforce Designs: A Policy Blueprint for State Early Childhood Professional Development Systems. By Sarah LeMoine. (National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington, DC) 2008. 42 p.

[“This blueprint focuses on the policies that connect professional development activities and that support and make possible effective implementation of a state system of professional development. It highlights principles and six policy areas that build or sustain an integrated system - a system that ensures quality in all settings in which early childhood professionals work. These principles and highlighted policy areas look beyond the status quo; they are aimed at the development and retention of a competent and stable early childhood workforce - a skilled cadre of effective, diverse, and adequately compensated professionals.”]

Full text at: http://www.naeyc.org/policy/ecwsi/pdf/Workforce_Designs.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Celebrating Improvements in Infant and Toddler Policy: Top 10 Policy Achievements of 2008. By Ashley Chu. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) December 2008. 5 p.

[“To say the least, 2008 has been an eventful year! Amidst the many exciting events that our nation has witnessed, federal and state policymakers have not forgotten the importance of investing in the early years. Throughout the year, the Zero to Three Policy Network kept you informed of important and innovative policy developments throughout the country. Both on the national and state levels, there have been impressive policy advancements for infants and toddlers, and as the year comes to an end, we celebrate these wonderful achievements. This feature article highlights the ‘Top 10 Policy Achievements of 2008,’ ten examples of public policies that recognize that we all have a role to play in supporting children and families during the early years.” The Baby Monitor (December 8, 2008.)]

Full text at:

http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/08_policy_achievements.pdf?docID=6781

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Who's Caring for the Kids? The Status of the Early Childhood Workforce in Illinois - 2008. By Susan Fowler and others. A joint project by McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership, National Louis University and Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative, University of Illinois. (The Center, Wheeling, Illinois) November 2008. 129 p.

[“Illinois has made dramatic progress since the publication of the 2001 report of ‘Who’s Caring for the Kids?’ Notable accomplishments have been made in the development of an integrated and coordinated system of care and education for young children through the establishment of the Illinois Early Learning Council, implementation of Preschool for All, and the roll-out of quality Counts - QRS. State policymakers have also addressed the professional needs and status of the early childhood workforce through the creation of the Professional Development Advisory Council, the establishment of Gateways to Opportunity, and the development of a system of credentialing for the early childhood workforce.... Lead teachers with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree have increased from 37% to 48% between 2001 and 2008.”]

Executive Summary: 8 p.

http://cecl.nl.edu/research/reports/whos_caring_summary_2008.pdf

Full text at: http://cecl.nl.edu/research/reports/whos_caring_report_2008.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

“Promoting Academic and Social-Emotional School Readiness: The Head Start REDI Program.” By Karen L. Bierman and others. IN: *Child Development*, vol. 79, no. 6 (November/December 2008) pp. 1802-1817.

[“Forty-four Head Start classrooms were randomly assigned to enriched intervention (Head Start REDI - Research-based, Developmentally Informed) or ‘usual practice’ conditions. The intervention involved brief lessons, ‘hands-on’ extension activities, and specific teaching strategies linked empirically with the promotion of: (a) social-emotional competencies and (b) language development and emergent literacy skills. Take-home materials were provided to parents to enhance skill development at home. Multimethod assessments of three hundred and fifty-six 4-year-old children tracked their progress over the course of the 1-year program. Results revealed significant differences favoring children in the enriched intervention classrooms on measures of vocabulary, emergent literacy, emotional understanding, social problem solving, social behavior, and learning engagement. Implications are discussed for developmental models of school readiness and for early educational programs and policies.” NOTE: Promoting Academic... is available for loan.]

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Newsletter Helps Parents, One Month at a Time. By Jenny Price. The Wisconsin Idea profile series. (University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin) November 19, 2008. 4 p.

[“Riley, a child development specialist with UW-Extension and a professor of human development and family studies in the School of Human Ecology, is the lead author and project director for ‘Parenting the First Year.’ The series of 12 instructional newsletters, available in English and Spanish, now reaches more than 26,000 Wisconsin households each year - almost half of all new parents - providing ideas, support and reassurance.... A study of the newsletter’s impact found parents who received it changed their beliefs, becoming less like parents who had abused their children, and they reported slapping or spanking their babies significantly less often than parents who did not receive the newsletters.... The newsletters are written in simple language, but are also steeped in child psychology research, based on observations of parents and their children.”]

Full text at: <http://www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/profiles/Riley/>

Full text of Parenting the First Year Newsletters:
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/parenting/ptfy.html>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Low-Income Children in the United States: National and State Trend Data, 1997-2007. By the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) November 2008. 59 p.

[“After nearly a decade of decline, the number of children living in low-income families has increased significantly since 2000. This data book provides national and 50-state trend data on the characteristics of low-income children over the past decade: parental education, parental employment, marital status, family structure, race and ethnicity, age distribution, parental nativity, home ownership, residential mobility, type of residential area, and region of residence.”]

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_851.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Foster Parenting and Family Finances. By Cheryl Smithgall and others. (Chapin Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois) 2008. 35 p.

[“Report explores how finances affect parenting in foster families. How does financial strain impact the way foster parents carry out their roles? This new Chapin Hall study,

based on in-depth interviews with 35 Illinois foster parents, explores motivations behind the decision to become foster parents; foster parents' financial circumstances, family composition, and employment; and the ways in which parents involve their foster children in services and recreational activities.” Chapin Hall Alert (December 2008.)]

Full text at: http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1478&L2=61&L3=130
(Free registration required.)

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

IMPROVED HEALTH

Media + Child and Adolescent Health: A Systematic Review. By Common Sense Media. (The Media, San Francisco, California) November 2008. 8 p.

[“Common Sense Media publishes a study performed by researchers from the Yale University School of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, and California Pacific Medical Center about the impact of media on children’s health. The report... looked at the best studies on media and health from the last 30 years and found that 80 percent of them showed that greater media exposure led to negative health effects in children and adolescents. ‘This review is the first ever comprehensive evaluation of the many ways that media impacts children’s physical health,’ said Ezekiel J. Emanuel, M.D., Ph.D., National Institutes of Health and lead researcher on the study.... The meta-analysis looked at 173 studies that examined media exposure's connection to seven different health outcomes, including tobacco use, sexual behavior, obesity, ADHD, academic performance, and drug/alcohol use. The strongest relationship was found between media and obesity. Of the 73 studies that examined the relationship between screen time and childhood obesity, 86 percent revealed a strong relationship between increased screen time and obesity.”]

Full text at:
http://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/CSM_media+health_v2c%20110708.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Parents’ Opinions of the Los Angeles Healthy Kids Program Remain High Despite Recent Challenges: Findings from the Second Evaluation Focus Groups. Prepared for First 5 LA. By Ian Hill, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2008. 62 p.

[“A second series of focus groups with parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Healthy Kids program found that opinions of the program remain favorable despite its recent fiscal challenges. Healthy Kids had provided comprehensive, affordable coverage to nearly 45,000 poor children from birth through age 18 until mid-2005, but funding

shortfalls led the program to cap enrollment for older children and enrollment levels for all children subsequently slipped. Still, the program remains highly valued by parents for providing high quality, comprehensive coverage and parents report good access to linguistically appropriate care and affordable out-of-pocket costs.”]

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411796_parents_opinion.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Go! Healthy. By the Children’s Aid Society. Podcast No. 1. (The Society, New York, New York) 2008. Podcast, or listen online. Duration: 14:11.

[“Manager of Food and Nutrition Stefania Patinella discusses Children’s Aid’s new approaches to helping families prevent their children from becoming overweight or obese, and helping children and youth appreciation and prepare delicious, healthful, fresh foods.”]

Podcast at: <http://www.childrengsaidsociety.org/podcasts/gohealthy>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Child Care Speaker's Kit. By the American Academy of Pediatrics and others. (The Academy, Elk Grove Village, Illinois) 2008.

[“The Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Child Care Speaker's Kit is a tool that can be used by healthcare professionals, public health educators, child care providers, or just about anyone to educate their community about sudden infant death syndrome in child care.”]

PowerPoint format: 74 slides

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/PPT/SIDSfinal.ppt>

PDF format with speaker’s notes: 74 p.

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/SIDSfinal.pdf>

PowerPoint format in Spanish: 73 slides

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/PPT/SIDSfinalSpanish.ppt>

PDF format in Spanish with speaker’s notes: 73 p.

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/SIDSspanishfinal.pdf>

Presentation materials in Spanish: 8 p.

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/PreSIDSKitmaterials.pdf>

Other SIDS publications: http://www.healthychildcare.org/section_SIDS.cfm

“Reducing the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in Child Care and Changing Provider Practices: Lessons Learned From a Demonstration Project.” By Rachel Y. Moon and others. IN: Pediatrics, vol. 122, no. 4 (October 2008) pp. 788-798.

[“The goal was to evaluate, through an American Academy of Pediatrics demonstration project, the effectiveness of a curriculum and train-the-trainer model in changing child care providers' behaviors regarding safe infant sleep practices.... Conclusions. A sudden infant death syndrome risk reduction curriculum using a train-the-trainer model is effective in improving the knowledge and practices of child care providers.... Continued education of parents, expanded training efforts, and statewide regulations, mandates, and monitoring are critical to ongoing efforts to decrease further the risk of sudden infant death syndrome in child care.” NOTE: Reducing the Risk... is available for loan.]

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Unclaimed Children Revisited: The Status of Children's Mental Health Policy in the United States. By Janice L. Cooper and others. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) November 2008. 159 p.

[“‘Unclaimed Children Revisited’ documents and assesses the effectiveness of policies relating to mental health services for children and youth with mental health problems, those at risk, and their families. Our data, collected from 50 states and three territories, demonstrate that states are still struggling to deliver adequate care, while federal leadership is lacking. Based on these findings, we propose key policy changes necessary to improving service delivery.” NCCP Update (December 2, 2008.)]

Executive Summary: 12 p. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/download_266.pdf

Full text: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_853.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Child Care Assistance in 2006: Insufficient Investments. By Hannah Matthews and Danielle Ewen. (Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC) November 3, 2008. 12 p.

[This “report presents information on nineteen states’ child care cuts, the relatively flat funding of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and reduced funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). It concludes that states need assistance to meet the needs of families and that the nation needs to refocus our spending priorities to invest in children.” The Baby Monitor (December 8, 2008.)]

Full text at: http://www.clasp.org/publications/childcareassistance_2006.pdf

California state data:

<http://www.clasp.org/ChildCareAndEarlyEducation/StateByState/CA.html>

State-by-state data: <http://clasp.org/publications/childcareearlyedmap.htm>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

The Economic Crisis: The View from Centers. By the Early Care and Education Consortium. (The Consortium, Washington, DC) [2008.] Various pagings.

[“Each day, we’re hearing more and more reports of the further impact the downturn is having on children and families. Centers across the country have been reporting that parents are cutting back on the hours children spend in child care, or worse, removing them all together. Centers that once had waiting lists of months are now struggling to fill classrooms.” Early Care and Education Consortium E-News (November 24, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.ececonsortium.org/news.php>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

STUDIES TO COME

[The following studies, reports, and documents have not yet arrived. California State Employees may place requests, and copies will be provided when the material arrives. All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.]

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Changing the Odds for Children at Risk: Seven Essential Principles of Educational Programs that Break the Cycle of Poverty. By Susan B. Neuman. (Praeger Publishers, Westport, Connecticut) 2008. 240 p.

[“Neuman’s seven principles are:

1. Target children who need care the most, particularly children who face multiple risks, such as parents who don’t speak English, health problems, and poor community supports.
2. Begin as early as possible, because it is easier to prevent problems than to remediate them.

3. Coordinate education services with health services, because poor eyesight or nutrition can be a fundamental obstacle to learning.
4. Provide compensatory programs that specifically help kids who are still struggling.
5. Use highly-trained professionals, not volunteers, because the quality of the relationship between teacher and child is crucial.
6. Emphasize program intensity, because research shows that the programs that work are those that are both comprehensive and high-quality.
7. Hold programs accountable, conduct rigorous assessments, and don't hesitate to change programs that aren't working."

The Early Ed Watch Blog (December 2, 2008.) NOTE: Changing the Odds... will be available for loan.]

For article and video on above book:

<http://www.newamerica.net/blog/early-ed-watch/2008/thinking-bigger-about-changing-odds-8713> ("Thinking Bigger about Changing the Odds." By Christina Satkowski. The Early Ed Watch Blog. (New America Foundation, Washington, DC) December 2, 2008. 2 p.)

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

IMPROVED HEALTH

Assessing Health and Safety in Early Care and Education Programs: Development of the CCHP Health and Safety Checklist. By Abbey Alkon. IN: Journal of Pediatric Health Care, vol. 22, no. 6 (November/December 2008) pp. 368-377.

["This study of the California Childcare Health Program (CCHP) Health and Safety checklist, in 127 early childhood education programs in five counties in California, found that the assessment tool is both valid and reliable for measuring recommended national health and safety standards. Checklist observations showed high compliance with food preparation and eating, emergency preparedness, and infant/toddler sleep conditions. Low compliance was found with outdoor/indoor equipment and hand washing routines." Research Connections (December 2008.) NOTE: Assessing Health and Safety... will be available for loan.]

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

27th Annual California Kindergarten Conference: "Connecting the California Standards to Classroom Practice." By the California Kindergarten Association. Pre-Conference Institute: January 16, 2009, Hyatt Regency Santa Clara.

Conference: January 17-18, 2009. Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, California.

[“One of my wise friends stated, ‘Some come to give and some come to get.’ Kindergarten conferences are incredible places for discovering new teaching and learning methods and applying them in our heads as well as our hearts. Some come to give, to share their talents, beliefs, methods and enthusiasms with attendees.... Some come to get, to learn, to gain and then to use the new knowledge for improved practices with the children who will benefit from the methods and the philosophies that keep education fresh and enlightening.... Make sure you come to get all you can in Santa Clara in January 2009.” Carol Nicoli, CKA President.]

For more information and to register: <http://www.ckanet.org/special.cfm?pagenum=336>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

SEECAP’s (Special Education Early Childhood Administrators Project) 15th Annual Symposium. (SEECAP is a project of the California Department of Education, Special Education Division, coordinated by the San Diego County Office of Education, Early Education Services and Programs Unit.) February 24-26, 2009. Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, California.

[“You are cordially invited to attend SEECAP’s 15th Annual Symposium designed for seasoned or aspiring administrators and/or parent or professional leaders in the field of early intervention. SEECAP professional development topics support program administrators and leaders in meeting your obligations for accountable, compliant, research-driven, and performance-based early education.... Issues related to inclusion and least restrictive environment will be emphasized this year....”]

For more information:

<http://www.sdcoe.net/student/eeps/seecap/?loc=symposium2&m=1>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities grants. Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Application deadline: February 3, 2009.

[“‘Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities’ is a new national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), which aims to implement healthy eating and active living initiatives for children, families and communities across the United States. The program places special emphasis on reaching children who are at highest risk for obesity on the basis of race/ethnicity, income and/or geographic location. Through the program, RWJF seeks to catalyze and support communities’ efforts to address the root causes of childhood obesity through integrated changes in policies, practices, social supports and

the physical environment. This initiative will advance RWJF's goal to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015. RWJF will award approximately 60 grants through this call for proposals (CFP) to help local community partnerships nationwide increase opportunities for physical activity and improve access to affordable healthy foods for children and families.”]

For more information:

<http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20603&c=EMC-FA138>

[\[Back to top.\]](#)

Business Leader Summits on Early Childhood Investment grants. Sponsored by Partnership for America's Economic Success.

[“The Partnership for America's Economic Success (Partnership) is pleased to invite businesses and community organizations to apply for awards of up to \$10,000 to help finance Business Leader Summits on Early Childhood Investment. Funds are available for up to 15 states, with one award per state. Generous funding for this project has come from Scholastic, Inc., as well as the other members of the Partnership for America's Economic Success.”]

For more information:

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/RFP_StateSummits20081120.pdf

[\[Back to top.\]](#)